

**IPL GOVERNING COUNCIL
Gavaskar
dropped**

LANS, New Delhi
The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday dropped former captain Sunil Gavaskar from the governing council of the Indian Premier League (IPL) but retained Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi and Ravi Shastri. The governing council was reconstituted after the board suspended IPL chairman and commissioner Lalit Modi earlier this year over charges of murky dealings.

The BCCI in its 81st annual general meeting also decided to withdraw suits filed against former president Jagmohan Dalmiya in Bombay High Court and also revoked the expulsion imposed on him in 2006.

**Hyderabad to
host Kiwi Test**

AFP, New Delhi
Hyderabad will be the venue for the second Test between India and New Zealand in November, according to a revised schedule announced by the country's cricket board on Wednesday.

New Zealand will play three Tests and five one-day internationals in India in November-December. The opening Test will be held in Ahmedabad and the final match in Nagpur. "Hyderabad will be the new Test centre and has been allotted the second Test against New Zealand," Indian cricket board secretary N. Srinivasan said in a statement. Venues for the two one-dayers were changed, with Jaipur hosting the second match and Baroda the third.

SCHEDULE
Nov 4-8: First Test, Ahmedabad
Nov 12-16: Second Test, Hyderabad
Nov 20-24: Third Test, Nagpur
Nov 28: First one-dayer, Guwahati
Dec 1: Second one-dayer, Jaipur
Dec 4: Third one-dayer, Baroda
Dec 7: Fourth one-dayer, Bangalore
Dec 10: Fifth one-dayer, Chennai

**Sehwag
ICC's brand
ambassador**

PTI, Dubai
Explosive Indian batsman Virender Sehwag is one of the four current leading cricketers, who have been chosen by the International Cricket Council as its ambassadors for year 2010-2011.

In all, the ICC has chosen five ambassadors, including Australian umpire Simon Taufel, for one-year period during which its flagship event ODI World Cup will be held jointly by India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara, England's World Twenty20 winning captain Paul Collingwood, Australia vice-captain Michael Clarke are the other ambassadors. "Virender, Michael, Kumar, Paul and Simon have so much to offer and to have access to their valuable time and energy for issues of importance to the ICC is beneficial to the game as a whole," ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat said in an ICC statement.

Micromax

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The first match of the series will be held on October 5 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

BCB had to negotiate to make the deal as nobody else participated in the tender, but Manzur assured it would be different in the future.

"I got a little surprised. We are going to take a long-term planning regarding the issue and hope that things would be different in future and it will improve," said Manzur when asked whether cricket's market value is on the wane.

Micromax country manager Wahab Khan said that they were looking forward to a long-term association with Bangladesh cricket.

"We are really delighted that we could be involved with this one-day series. We are looking forward to a long-term association," said Wahab. He also informed that they were trying to bring Bollywood's superstar couple Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna during the series.



Bangladesh Cricket Board CEO Manzur Ahmed (L) and Micromax country manager Wahab Khan (R) display the series logo during a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Butt appeals against ban

Cricket

AFP, London

Pakistan Test captain Salman Butt has appealed against his provisional suspension over spot-fixing allegations, International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Haroon Lorgat said Wednesday. Butt, together with fast bowlers Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif, was banned from playing by the ICC after allegations made by Britain's News of the World they'd been involved in a plot to bowl deliberate no-balls during last month's Test against England at Lord's as part of a betting scam.

The allegations have since become the subject of a Scotland Yard investigation. All three had the right of appeal and Lorgat said Butt had taken up the option, which will now be subject to a new hearing. "We are making good progress," Lorgat told BBC television.

"Just yesterday (Tuesday) we received a request from Ijaz Butt is due to meet with ECB chairman Giles Clarke later Wednesday. Meanwhile Lorgat defended the global governing body against claims it had been slow to act when confronted with 'fixing' claims. "If you think about the incidences that have transpired, we promised action and we are making good progress to see it through," he insisted.

Aussie bowlers

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in 14 Tests against Australia, is troubled by a sprain but is expected to be fit for Friday's match. "For me, the decisive point in the first Test will be the bowling attack that clicks as a unit the quickest, this will hand them the advantage because batting on both sides is of a high standard," wrote Moody.

The second and final Test starts in Bangalore on October 9.

Aussies wary of Sehwag

FROM PAGE 17
It makes it so much easier for Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Venkatsai Laxman if they are batting on the back of a whirlwind 90 or a hundred from Sehwag. He certainly goes a long way to setting up their innings. Sehwag, the only Indian to have hammered a Test triple-century, has so far scored 7,039 runs in 79 Tests with 21 hundreds.

The Australian coach said India had the bowlers to press home the advantage given by the hard-hitting opener. "Sehwag sets it up with the bat and the bowling unit works well as a group," said Nielsen.



Australia captain Ricky Ponting tackles a disconcerting short ball during nets in Chandigarh yesterday.

Salman Butt to consider lifting the suspension," the South African added. "As expeditiously as possible, we will conduct a hearing to consider that appeal."

Lorgat's comments came just hours after Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt flew into England and refused to apologise for his part in the ongoing 'fixing' row. Ijaz Butt alleged England players were paid "enormous amounts of money" to lose this month's third one-day international at The Oval, sparking a furious row between the two countries' cricket officials.

England players and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have both threatened legal action unless they receive an unreserved apology from Ijaz Butt who, at the time, said he was just repeating something he'd heard from bookmakers.

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Modi gets

FROM PAGE 17
The owners of Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab were targeted for "various irregularities", while Kochi also came under the scanner. "The new IPL Governing Council, which will hold office for one year until the next annual general meeting of the board, will be headed by Chirayu Amin. It will have five members and two former cricketers," BCCI president Manohar said Wednesday.

The BCCI on Wednesday dropped a case against Dalmiya in the Bombay High Court related to the alleged embezzlement of funds from the 1996 World Cup. It also withdrew his expulsion from the board.

DRU football

SPORTS REPORTER
The Daily Star will take on Destiny while Janakantha takes on Jugantor in the semifinals of the DRU-Rapid Securities Media Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

In the second round matches yesterday, Janakantha defeated Channel I with 1-0 win while Boishakhi TV beat Bhorer Kagoj 3-0 yet failed to make it to the semis as Jugantor edged them on head-to-head record.

The Daily Star got walkover against Bangladesh Protidin.

Open tennis

SPORTS REPORTER
Sarda Alam and Sathi Sarkar moved to the women's singles final of the Shahjalal Islami Bank Open Tennis Tournament beating respective opponents in straight sets. Sarda defeated Medha 6-2, 6-1 while Sathi beat Moumita Jannat 6-0, 6-2 to set a date for today's final.

The top seeded men moved to the semifinals with straight sets wins. Amol Roy, the number one seed beat Dipu Lal 7-6, 6-2 while Jafar Imam had an easier win (6-1, 6-0) over Prithul Mandal. Ranjan Ram beat Anwar Hossain 6-1, 6-3 and Alamgir Hossain won against Mofazzal Hossain by 6-0, 6-3 margin.

India

FROM PAGE 17
meaning -- are unclear, but many believe they were first made from a sheet of metal, and were only popularised in South African sports stadiums in recent years.

Harris Mbulelo Majeke, South Africa's High Commissioner in Delhi, showed locals last week how to blow the horn with a long, loud blast.

**Country's
first pro golf
tour in Jan**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will host its first professional golf tournament on the Asian Development Tour when it stages the Bangladesh Masters in Dhaka from January 26.

The Asian Development Tour, which follows the structure of the Nationwide Tour in America and the European Challenge Tour, is a stepping-stone to the prestigious Asian Tour.

Grameenphone, the country's leading cellular operator, has come forward to sponsor the event which will have \$75,000 prize money.

The tournament will feature 150 golfers from 20 countries and the leading three players will gain entry to the Asian Tour.

"We hope that the launching of this Asian Development Golf Tournament will raise the profile of the sport in Bangladesh," said Bangladesh Golf Federation general secretary Mirza Baker Sarwar Ahmed.

Bangladesh has hosted an event on the Indian circuit for the last two years but this will be the country's first regional tournament.

Yesterday's announcement by the federation comes nearly two months after Siddikur Rahman became the first Bangladeshi to win on the Asian Tour at the Brunei Open. Grameenphone has been a patron of Siddikur's since 2003.

The Asian Development Tour was launched this year to help professional golfers progress to the Asian Tour.

**Women's
handball**

SPORTS REPORTER

Azad Sporting Club beat Arambagh Kriya Chakra 26-14 in the United Oil Women's Handball League at the Handball Stadium yesterday. The winners were leading the first half 13-5.

Abahani Limited kept their winning streak with a 23-14 win over Dhaka Mariners Club.

Meanwhile, Azad Sporting had another win earlier in the day when they beat Mariners 17-14 in their rain-interrupted match from the previous day.



Desh TV managing director Asaduzzaman Noor (3rd from L) and WECCA president Dr Mahbubur Rahman (C) exchange documents at the channel's office on Tuesday. Desh TV will telecast the 2nd Beach Cricket tournament live from Cox's Bazar on October 28, 29 and 30.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
41 De-pressed
42 Existed
43 Put on ice,
8 "Take — Train"
12 Ms. Thurman
13 Approximately
14 Sauce thickener
15 Element in laughing gas
17 Story-book villain
18 Run smoothly
19 Spray can
21 Investigated
24 Tear
25 Trail the pack
26 Accomplished
28 Transfer
32 Finished
34 Conger, e.g.
36 Portrayal
37 Doctrine
39 "Hum-bug!"

DOWN
1 Pistol
2 Parisian pal
3 Disease cause
4 Raced
5 Work unit
6 Away from port
7 Unsocial type
8 State cop
9 Swine in the extreme
10 Continental coin
11 Ice skater's leap
16 Abrade
20 Disen-cumber
21 Scenario

Solution time: 25 mins.

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**Injury rules out
Semenya**

AFP, New Delhi

World 800m champion Caster Semenya pulled out of the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday because of a back injury, dealing another devastating setback to the troubled event, which starts on Sunday.

Team South Africa's Chief Medical Officer Shuaib Manjra said that Semenya underwent medical tests in Johannesburg on Tuesday and scans confirmed a back injury.

"Semenya also confirmed that she had been suffering serious lower back pain and had not been comfortable during her last few races," said a statement by the South Africa Olympic Committee (SASCOC).

Manjra told reporters the athlete's well-being and health were priorities and while her absence robbed South Africa of a potential gold medalist, he did not want to risk serious injury with the 2011 World Championships and the 2012 Olympics fast approaching.

"It would serve no purpose to have an athlete in Delhi who was struggling with any sort of injury that would compromise performance," said Manjra.

"It is our medical view that physically and emotionally she would not be capable of doing justice to her talent at an event of this magnitude."

The 19-year-old Semenya was added to the South Africa squad for the Games in August, one month after the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) ended a controversial probe into her gender that saw her

sidelined for almost 11 months. Semenya had impressed since her return, improving steadily over the course of several warm-up competitions leading up to the Delhi Games, and broke the 1:59 mark in the 800m on September 7 in Milan.

Semenya shot to fame when she lowered her personal best in the 800m by more than four seconds at the 2009 African Junior Championships.

But the victory raised questions about her muscular physique and deep voice, stoking speculation about her gender.

Scandal erupted weeks later after she dominated the field and cruised to gold at the World Championships in Berlin.

Following the event, the IAAF banned Semenya from competition and required her to submit to sex testing, igniting a political and popular uproar in South Africa.

Almost a year later, the runner was reinstated following exhaustive negotiations between medical teams of the IAAF and her own team, which were presided over by a mediator.

Terms of the agreement have remained confidential.

Meanwhile, Manjra added that no final decision had been made in relation to South Africa's long jump specialist Khotso Mokoena and men's 800m world champion Mbuleni Mulaudzi, whose participation is also in doubt.

"We are awaiting the result of an MRI scan conducted on Mulaudzi on Tuesday and we have to assess Khotso's readiness in competing at a tournament post recovery from an injury."

Worries over ticket sales

AFP, New Delhi

With only four days to go to the opening of the troubled Delhi Commonwealth Games, thousands of tickets are still unsold, even for the opening and closing ceremonies and 100-metre finals.

Tickets for the showpiece event, which begins Sunday, are still on offer in the cheapest categories (200 rupees, four dollars) for most sports.

Cheap tickets have sold out for the opening and closing ceremonies, but are still available in the middle and higher categories priced at 1,000-50,000 rupees, the Games' main ticket website shows.

For the 100-metre finals on October 7, normally the highlight of the athletics competition, tickets are on sale in all categories -- perhaps reflecting the absence of star sprinter Usain Bolt who decided not to attend.

For the swimming, another highlight of the

Games, seats in the 1,000-rupee high category for the final day on October 9 are on sale, while all categories are available for the finals on the previous Friday.

"Sales have picked up a bit in the last 10 days," a saleswoman in the official telesales service told AFP.

In total, there are more than two million tickets available for the October 3-14 event, which brings together countries and territories mostly in the former British empire.

Organisers have struggled to convince Delhi residents of the benefits of the Games, which have resulted in major upheavals in the city amid widespread criticism over corruption and shambolic organisation.

Many middle-class citizens have decided to take up "Commonwealth Escape Packages" being offered by city travel agents.

The tickets are also expensive in a country where two thirds of the 1.2-billion population live on less than two dollars a day, according to a World Bank study released in 2008.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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CRYPTOQUIP
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE'S FANCIFUL IDEAS START TO MAKE YOU ILL, I'D SAY YOU'RE GETTING NOTION SICKNESS.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals P